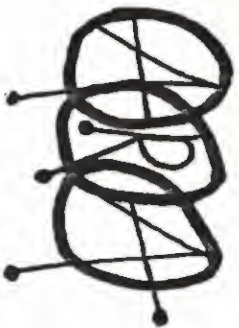


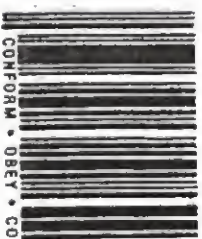


MOB

ACTION



Mob Action
c/o Anti-Racist Action
PO Box 10797
COLS, OH 43201



CONFORM • 08ET • CO



The points of unity are published on the final page. These are the points which all ARA chapters embrace.

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1. We go where they go. Whenever the fascists are organizing or active in public, we are there. We don't believe in ignoring them or staying away from them. We will never let the nazi's have the streets.

2. We don't rely on the cops or the courts. This doesn't mean we don't ever go to court or work with the police. But we must rely on ourselves to protect ourselves and to stop the fascists.

3. Non-sectarian defense of other anti-fascists. In ARANET, we have lots of groups and individuals. We don't agree about everything, and we have the right to differ openly. But in this movement, an attack on any of us is an attack on ALL. We all stand behind each other.

4. ARANET intends to do the hard work necessary to build a strong, broad movement against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, the discrimination against the oldest, the youngest, and the weakest of our people. We defend abortion rights and support unrestricted reproductive freedom for all. WE INTEND TO WIN!

Columbus ARA meets every Monday at 7:30 at Crestview Community Market in Clintonville. To request information on Columbus ARA, or on an ARA chapter near you, or for any other information, call us at 614.228.6824 or e-mail us at aracolumbus@hotmail.com. We also accept snail mail at PO Box 10797, Columbus, OH, 43201.

[How to get more Mob Actions.....]

We cannot afford to send these, however, we believe it is necessary that they circulate as inexpensively as possible throughout communities. Please send three stamps for every issue you wish to receive. You can send many stamps, as we will attempt to keep record of how many are sent by each individual. You will be notified when you receive your last issue. You will then obviously need to send more postage (or choose to ignore us). Feel free to add interested people to our mailing list. Thanks.

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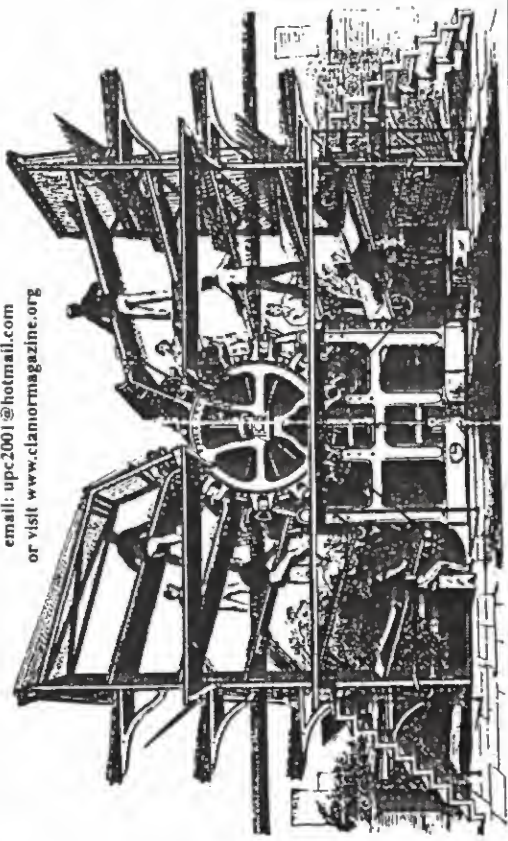
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Aren't you tired of this yet?

So now Ohio has passed a new law against teen smoking. Are you a smoker? Do you know any under-age smokers? Do you think this law will make them stop? Do you think kids are going to say "Gosh, I never realized this would be illegal. I love the law and the cops so much, I better quit right away!"? Of course not. The people who wrote this law don't think so either.

So why write a law that nobody will obey? It can get thrown on the heap of other laws specifically designed to keep kids down: curfew laws, truancy laws, restrictive driving laws, laws about what you can put in your body, where you can be, how you can gather, who you can fuck, etc....

Literally its just another excuse to hassle you, arrest you, fine you, question you, jail you or just go through your pockets. Are you sick of this yet? More laws are made for you by people who know you can't vote, and when you can you either won't care, won't vote, or will leave town to go to school, the military, or just find a life somewhere a little less oppressive.

If you think its going to get better later, think again! Welcome to America, where the young, the poor, the non-white are targets. There are more people in prison in America than any country at anytime in history! Yes, more people were locked up for victimless "crimes" under Bill Clinton than under Joseph Stalin! This latest law is just to get you used to your chains.

Welcome to Ohio, 42nd in the nation in spending on education. We have more prisons and jails than public universities. At Ohio state they are moving towards charging more, being more selective, keeping all the but wealthy out. Don't worry, there is still a spot for you at the Orient Correctional Facility. You'll be sharing that prison bed with someone else -- Orient is at nearly double capacity.

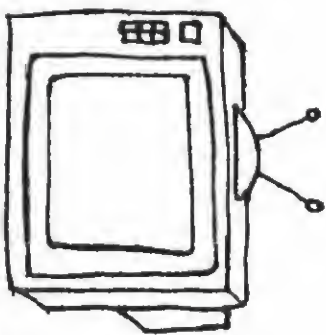
Still think they really care if you smoke? If they did, they would have actually fought the tobacco companies 50 years ago. Instead they take lobbying money from them and come down on YOU.

It's tough being young these days. We have to deal with realities that other generations never considered. We are the first generation to be told to expect a lower quality of life than our parents. No wonder they want us to get used to being searched and harassed by police: The system which dictates that profits come before people, gives all the power to the companies that sell you tobacco, pay off politicians, lay off workers, make profits off of building prisons, and using prison labor; it is this system which produces laws to make you a criminal -- after all, they need more prisoners to make profits off of.

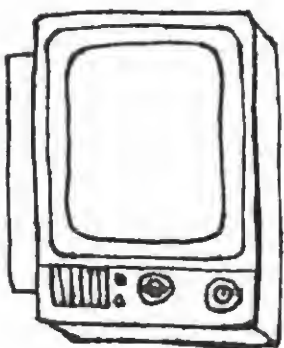
If you are sick of this and want to fight back, organize! Get together with your friends and peers and make life difficult. If you don't want to be governed, become ungovernable.

"We believe we understand the system better than most other groups. With this realization we are attempting to form a strong political base, based in the community with the only power we have, which is a potentially destructive force, if we don't get Freedom"

Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party from the Alameda County Jail, 1968.



Racist Takeover of your Television



One of our local neo-nazi groups, the Council of Conservative Citizens, has a new recruiting drive on. Their number one plan is to use Community 21 as their tool. So far they have run 5 different racist TV shows on Community 21. According to our intelligence they intend to increase this amount over the next few months and begin to add weekly or biweekly syndicated racist programming.

Despite plenty of community outrage, Channel 21 refuses to pull this racist programming from the air or ban the current CoCC members who act as "producers", Jerry Davis and Phillip D Blood, from the station.

Community 21 has a long history of racism and discrimination within its own organization. Senior officials of Channel 21 are well known for their racist comments, power hungry management practices, and attacks on the differently-abled. Channel 21 has been sued numerous times for censoring other shows for content (racism is okay, but sex is bad) and illegal operating procedures for a non-profit. Despite this, the current management continues to have the confidence of city council and continues to support "free speech" for fascists and censorship for everyone else.

What can we do to stop them? We need to turn up the heat on these fascist sympathizers. Call they station and give an earful to Jeffrey Winguard, the station's general manager, or to Pat Williamsen, the Executive Director. Or call them at home.

LETTERS

to the

Anarchists

[What did it feel like getting shot in the ass with a rubber bullet?] My initial reaction after receiving a rubber bullet to the ass was, "Holy Shit! They're shooting at us!" I thought it was an actual shotgun shell that had just ripped my ass to shreds.

The pain was unbearable. Pain-the pain still hurts today- a week later. The pain makes it hard to sit, stand, or even sleep.

Then I felt the Anger. I was and still am pissed. Angry that these fuckers who are supposed to be our so-called protectors, can gas us for trying to make our voices heard. And then when we try to defend ourselves, we get shot. Angry that we can be snatched off the street or out of our homes, and be beaten, tortured, and arrested for our political beliefs targeted for having open minds.

And finally, I felt a sense of pride- not bullshit pride, but proud to be a part of the revolution. Proud of my brothers and sisters who are in constant struggle against the capitalist system that enslaves us. A sense of honor. Knowing that I (and many others) are willing to put their ass on the line (literally) to defend each other and to defend human liberation.

Free your mind and your ass might get shot.

Never back down, Uh-Oh

[As an anarchist and devotee of fighting "isms" of the world (racism, sexism, etc), why do you claim veganism as your de rigueur lifestyle?]

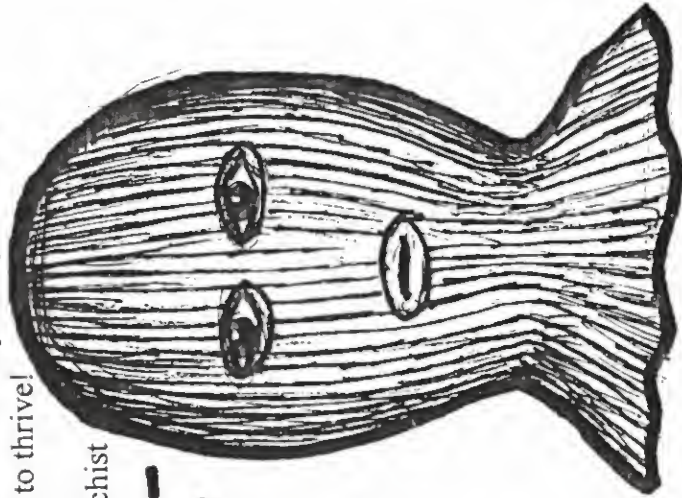
I could write a book about this. I have only a few lines to explain the word speciesism. The conditioning starts early. We are taught to distinguish between different types of animals as we are taught to distinguish between different classes of people. Our first cuddly toys are usually non-food animals. We become appalled that people in China eat our pets (dogs, cats). How sick. Opposition to speciesism has nothing to do with being an animal lover. It has nothing to do with sentimentality, it is about simple justice and consideration. Women who demand equality find themselves faced with a whole stew of resistance, from spiritual to biological. Such is the way of the world. But progress is being made, every day more people are confronted with sexism, and they see thru the swindle. But confront most convicted anti-racists and anti-sexists with speciesism, and you are most likely to get laughed at. I am not whining about how hard it is for people to understand why I choose to be vegan. Hell, the majority of activists will probably never follow their own examples of fighting oppression. But let it be known that I believe the sickness of speciesism (believing that the human species is superior to all other species) is nothing more than the construction of our own alienation. Every barrier we put up restricts our own freedom of movement. Speciesism has become our prison, and through these walls we watch the world from the outside. You will not convince me that I can still conclude sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, racism, ableism, ageism, capitalism, fascism, and authoritarianism, by participating in the expenditure of other species. The human race is the exploiting group. Generally, this is acceptable because we believe we are smarter and have commodities that make us so. This does not mean that we should refuse to extend the basic principle of equality of consideration to members of other species. I said basic. This does not mean that I think animals are a better species, or that I even love them for that matter. This means that I let them be, and I would never think it acceptable to eat them because I am hungry. I find it much more relevant to the (anarchist) movement to feast on/destroy those who are oppressive to my brothers and sisters, like cops. I mean c'mon, we can have sex, talk to each other, and raise a family. That definitely makes us better. Right? Oh wait, animals do that too. We assume, because of population and biological factors, that we are the creators and destroyers of this world. Animals will never be here for our disposal, no more than Native American Indians for our sterilizing, the working class for our arresting and brutalizing, women for men.....

I know that after reading this, some activists will begin to deconstruct my feelings on the issue. But feelings are always valid. We as humans, have the choice to ignore, study, and/or follow them. lady

Why the mask?

I have been forbade a face because of my beliefs. Therefore, I choose to wear this mask in solidarity with others to become apparent to this government, to this community, to you. Faceless I fight. I have chosen this mask as my as my front because my purpose and beliefs far exceed any profile of class, gender or race you could establish for me. My face is not covered because I am timid of you. In fact, you will remember with more ease my covered face, associating me with this revolution. I/We am/are building and sustaining a framework to fight oppression. Is it so radical to demand cessation of sexism, racism, classism, ablist, ageism, heterosexism, fascism and all other forms of tyranny? You will remember me not by my physical features, but by my radical notion of equality. You must remember me as a part of this revolution, which continues to contend the aforementioned oppressions by any means necessary. I/We intend to thrive!

In solidarity,
An Anarchist



>Anti-racists have frustrated Hale's plans to organize publicly. We have >successfully raised the level of opposition to Hale and his "church," but we >have a long way to go. The important task for radical anti-racists and >anti-fascists is to build a stronger political challenge to the organized >racists. We need to keep up the pressure on the ground, but it is also >essential for us to create a vibrant alternative. As people look for >answers to their dilemmas and concerns, we must attempt to build new paths >that can be successful challenges to the racism and violence of the fascists >and the society that has created them.

>
>CHICAGO ANTI-RACIST ACTION
>1573 N. Milwaukee PMB 420
>Chicago, IL 60622
>312.409.1432

Get to Know your local Nazis.
by Care-Bear



Hi. I've been asked to write this to help people understand and get acquainted with different Neo-Nazi groups. Understanding a group's character, goals and leaders is an important step to undermining and defeating them. There are a wide variety of fascist groups in this country a whole library can be written about them. I'm just going to stick to the basics about groups known to be active right now in Central Ohio.

Hammerskins -- Once thought to be finished in Central Ohio, this group is staging a comeback. These guys are the elite of the neo-nazi skinhead world. One cannot just claim to be a hammerskin, one was apply to be a probate. After sometime as a supporter or probate one is then accepted to full membership. This period of probation lasts more than a year. During this time new gang members are required to follow orders and commit many serious crimes if they want to be full members.

Hammerskins belong to the Hammerskin Nation, a confederation of hammerskin groups based in Dallas TX. The member groups included the Northern, Western, Eastern, Midland and Confederate Hammerskins in the US. The Vinland Hammerskins and Northern Hammers operate in Canada. In Australia the group is called the Southern Cross Hammerskins and in Continental Europe the Charlamenge Hammerskins. Each full member wears a patch on their flight jacket with cross claw hammers in red and black (just like the ones seen in Pink Floyd's "The Wall") over their national flag (in the Southern US this would be the Confederate Flag). All sport shaved heads and are likely to be covered in white power tattoos.

Their numbers in Central Ohio are small. However they are currently going through a recruitment phase and are picking up many new probates in Newark and Lancaster. Be on the lookout for this group to grow in the coming year.

National Alliance -- This is the most important and powerful neo-nazi groups in the world and Ohio has quietly become one of their strongholds. Unlike the Klan and various Bonehead (neo-nazi skinhead) groups, these guys largely recruit out of the middle class. They attempt to recruit out of the professional classes, police and firefighters, military personnel, college professors and the like. They are fairly large (about 5,000 members nation-wide) and very wealthy as a group. Resistance Records, the world's largest distributor of white power music, grossed over 3 million dollars last year. National Vanguard Books, the world largest publisher of racist books, has 2 titles that have sold over half a million copies. Both are owned by the National Alliance.

In addition to discreet recruiting from the general public, the National Alliance focuses a lot of its recruitment efforts on other neo-nazis who are second or third tier leaders in their own organizations. By this means, the National Alliance has a huge level of influence and power over other white supremacist groups if not outright clandestine control or friendly relations. These guys have their finger in ever pie worth tasting.

Working through other groups has fallen of somewhat as the National Alliance sees itself in a strong enough position to work openly as opposed to through other organizations. Recently they have begun recruiting heavily within Police Unions and anti-immigrant groups.

In Ohio the National Alliance has small cells in every city. By far Cleveland is the largest for them but they have 15 - 20 members in Columbus and some influence in the Fraternal Order of Police statewide. Columbus Anti-Racist Action is always very eager to get any new information about this group.

Council of Conservative Citizens -- The newest player on the Ohio hate scene is the Council of Conservative Citizens still small with only 2 chapters in formation. They grew out of the old white citizens councils of the civil rights era and are a major force within the Republican party in the South. National Political Figures with ties to CoCC include Attorney General John Ashcroft, Senators Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Trent Lott (R-MI), Congressional Representatives Bob Barr and Roger Wicker (both R-MI) and over 40 state legislators and state supreme court justices in the south. Recently they have attempted to move north into Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and the greater New York area. Expect to hear more about these guys in the future.

The Klan -- In Ohio, 2 Klan groups still compete for membership although they both have fallen on hard times. The American Knights of the KKK have stronghold still in north western Ohio and the Cleveland area. The Knights of the White Kamelia still have active chapters (called Klaverns) in Central and Southeastern Ohio despite the collapse of their organizing in late 1999 after a year long campaign to shut down their rallies by ARA. They've been pretty quiet ever since but we expect them to attempt a comeback. Be in touch for anti-Klan rally information as the summer progresses.

Aryan Nations -- The Aryan Nations has been mostly quiet in Ohio over the past few years. We expect that to change in the next 6 months as leadership struggles nationally force local leaders to recruit heavily to build their power base. The groups still operates a church in New Vienna and has a second headquarters in the Cleveland area.

>was ruined--their meeting shut down!

>

>This is the fourth WCOTC meeting to be disrupted by anti-racists in the
>past three months. Hale's speeches in Bloomington and Decatur, Illinois,
>were drowned out by activists with a police line being formed to separate
>the WCOTC from anti-racists, while a WCOTC meeting in Wallingford,
>Connecticut also resulted in a clash between anti-racists and fascists.

>

>In the aftermath of this action, the Peoria library stated that the WCOTC
>would never be allowed to hold an event there again, as such events disrupt
>regular library functions. The same day, the library in Schaumburg,
>Illinois, where the WCOTC was planning their next meeting, also refused to
>host them, citing the same concerns. Faced with the very real possibility
>that they may have lost the use of public libraries for good, the WCOTC is
>panicking. Hale announced that he has contacted the Department of Justice
>and the FBI to pursue charges that his civil rights are being violated by
>anti-racist activists--an act of complete political hypocrisy given the
>WCOTC's opposition to civil rights for all. Hale also filed a lawsuit
>against the Schaumburg library, claiming that "it's the police's job to
>make sure that I can give a speech without having any altercations or
>disturbances." Hale's political defense is growing increasingly desperate
>and liberal for a white supremacist who preaches fascist "revolution."

>

>One thing is certain--the WCOTC is losing its facade of respectability and
>nonviolence. Despite his best efforts to keep his troops in line, the WCOTC
>members in Peoria ignored Hale's orders to stop and engaged in fighting.
>Hale publicly presents his organization as a political group committed to a
>"non-violent" strategy of issue raising, yet the attraction for many
>members of the WCOTC is the organizations calls for violent race war and
>genocide. But while Hale tries his hardest to present a "kind and gentle"
>face to his murderous racism, the constant pressure and challenge applied
>by ARA and other anti-racist activists has forced the WCOTC rank and file
>up against a wall where they can no longer obey Hale's pleas and strategy
>The WCOTC is not a passive organization, it is a violent fascist group
>responsible for shootings, bombings, and racial attacks. It is therefor

> On Saturday March 24, the Illinois-based white supremacist World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) planned to hold their tenth public meeting at a library in Peoria, Illinois. The WCOTC has been on the rise since the shooting spree undertaken by one of its members, Ben Smith, in July of 1999 (Smith targeted Asian, Black and Jewish people, killing 2 and wounding 9). After exploiting the media attention in the wake of the shooting for all it was worth, WCOTC leader Matt Hale began a campaign of holding public meetings in libraries around Central Illinois to spread his fascist ideology. These meetings are a bid to appear respectable and to bring white supremacy into the mainstream. Hale's usual language of racist slurs and calls for RaHoWa (Racial Holy War) are toned down and buried behind smooth-talking claims that the WCOTC is only interested in helping white communities. The WCOTC's shock troops of violence-prone thugs are encouraged to dress sharply to present a good public image and to refrain from violence ... for the time being.

> Meanwhile, Anti-Racist Action (ARA) chapters have been working to develop a campaign to expose, challenge and confront Matt Hale and the WCOTC's attempts to organize. In response to the Peoria meeting, anti-fascists from the Chicago and Aurora chapters of ARA joined with activists from Bradley University and the Peoria area to shut down the fascist attempt to organize publicly. Approximately 70 anti-racists descended upon the Peoria library to counter about 40 WCOTC members and supporters. Clashes broke out in the parking lot, in front of the front door and in the meeting room, resulting in injuries on both sides. The WCOTC flag was captured and Hale was struck twice in the head with a stick, and a chaotic flight involving thrown chairs and pepper spray in the meeting room resulted in the immediate cancellation of the event before it had begun. Three anti-racists were arrested and charged with misdemeanors. Forced out of the library, the WCOTC held a feeble rally at the far end of the library parking lot behind police lines in an attempt to save face. The fascists' attempt to recruit and organize

Prison's been my home

Growing up in the ghetto under a poverty situation
We are forced by circumstances to grow up fast
Watching and feeding our little brother or sister
While our parents seek to find an occupation...

Prison's been my home

Poverty compelled me to establish my own economic
flow... Where i had to sell drugs to buy my own
clothes... Wanting to try to do the right thing that
ended up being the wrong thing to survive...

Prison has been my home

Thirteen years ago I was innocent and very immature
Got caught up in a rat race of a vicious cycle
Where i see freedom no more
It's been a long time and i am a long way from home
Where i have been all alone

Prison has been my home

Remembering my youth that left me when i entered
the prison community... i wished then i could
have been given immunity... because my crimes
were political not social... i was fighting for
my families survival... i am not the enemy...
famine, infant mortality, poverty is...

Prison has been my home

Judges in black robes sanctioned me here
But it was the blackness of my skin
Manipulating their minds with an overwhelming
fear... Sorry i am not broken
just hurt... and the pain is intense because
you will never convince me that i am a kriminal

Prison has been my home

So many have failed to advance themselves while
doing this tour of duty... reclaiming my



humanity has saved my life and the lives of others
 Truly... turning a negative
 situation into something positive is what I
 will do as long as I live...

Prison has been my home

My body's been confined but my spirit free
 No one can ever rob me of my soul or integrity
 My struggle for freedom has long intensified
 Because my Support/Love I have received from
 all the caring and honorable freedom loving people
 on the outside... I will not let you down.

Prison has been my home

Seeing some of my loved one's die on both
 sides of the wall... Has made me much stronger
 and self-determined to fight through it
 all... by standing firm and tall...

Prison has been my home

I have learned about institutional racism
 oppressors here are consumed by sadism
 operating a system on opportunism
 that can only be dismantled by Revolutionary
 Humanism... We dare to struggle we dare to win...

Prison has been my home

When the prison gates open for me
 the real dragon will fly out... carrying
 out the plans of New Afrika no doubt...

distribute widely...

By Khalilani X. Khalidun #874304
 INDIANA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS
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Much time was spent by this network lurking around the Black Bloc, following them like the po, and trying to observe tactics and actions taken. Through the demonstration of these interests, it is concluded that SalAMI members played into the hands of the state. Time was spent "fighting elite holds over the resources and peoples of the world," by attempting to smother and arrest Black Bloc actions. These attempts were both pitiful and counterproductive to the Anti-Fascist/Anti-Capitalist movement as a whole. These 'non-violent' anti-property destruction people who din we are wrong because of our historically displayed principles against symbols and practices of rampant destruction to the environment and peoples of the world, need to recognize that we essentially want the same things as the people who choose to stand up for oppressions by sitting in front of a police line. The major difference is that we demand an end to these oppressions by ANY MEANS NECESSARY! Only a revolutionary (Anarchist) movement, utilizing both violent and non-violent means of action, will be able to prevail. It is critical that we always resist tactics used, like those of SalAMI, against our solidarity. We will continue contending oppressive bindings by using these actions, which we know break away these ties. Through this specific mass demonstration in Quebec City, SalAMI has proven that they are one with these bindings (state, police, etc.) working to keep muzzled the voices of individuals who strive to end the tyranny over all peoples.

Black Bloc member
 Lady



The purpose of this document is to publicly denounce a citizen-based network called SALAMI. This is written out of response to tactics and forces used by members of SALAMI against members of the Black Bloc, during the protests of the FTAA in Quebec City.

Forming in 1998, Operation SALAMI is a "direct action network born in the context of a citizens' right campaign against the MIA." Their long-term mission is "the desire to create a new form of social power with the potential to counter and even reverse the dynamics of impoverishment and destruction caused by the sway which a small elite holds over the resources and the people of the world." We would like to point out that actions taken against Black Bloc members, directly contradict their mission statement for democracy the end to destruction by the small elite. In fact, it suppressed a heavy form of social power that counters and reverses the destruction they speak of.

On Friday April 20 2001, persons identifying themselves as members of SALAMI held down a member of the Black Bloc who was allegedly seen participating in the physical destruction of a corporate power symbol. These members of SALAMI worked in arms with members of elite forces (police and state) of oppression to attempt an arrest of the individual. This is not what democracy looks like. On Saturday April 21, a group of 20-30 people, several of them identifying themselves as SALAMI, used public shaming against a Black Bloc member after a bank (symbol of corporate power/capitalism/classism/small elite/etc.) received a blow to the window. The group began a unified "booing" and pointing to single out the individual to police and other protestors. One person form the group ran forward and began screaming at two Bloc members. The tone and intent were clear, but it was not sure what was actually said because this man spoke solely in French. On the same day, two men attempted to attack a Black Bloc member with pepper spray. When asked to identify themselves, it was confirmed they were members of the processed meat crew. The situation de-escalated when the two men were quickly outnumbered by the Bloc's solidarity to their members.



In January, anti-choice activists local to Cleveland joined with a national mobilization of the group known as Operation Save America to protest access to abortion in Cleveland. Operation Save America is perhaps more widely recognized by the name under which the organization formerly operated: Operation Rescue. During its heyday, Operation Rescue used militant and violent tactics against abortion providers throughout the country. In the early 1990s, mass blockades shut down abortion services in Wichita and Buffalo for weeks. The few patients who managed to access services during their 1991 mobilization in Cincinnati had to pass through massive street fighting outside clinics to do so. While the name of the organization has changed due to legal problems faced by Operation Rescue, Operation Save America uses the same rhetoric and church based organizing employed by Operation Rescue. Additionally, a continuity in leadership between the two organizations shows the connections between them.

Despite significant concern that Operation Save America would employ the same tactics they used in the past as Operation Rescue, their Cleveland actions were characterized primarily by the use of large, graphic signs, and misleading rhetoric outside of Case Western Reserve University Hospital and two suburban clinics. They did not attempt a blockade, nor did they openly attack patients, providers, or clinic staff people. This mobilization was, essentially, a war of words and photos.

But why did Operation Save America remain so calm, in comparison with their rhetoric and their past? Perhaps the best explanation is one of numbers. Very few antis came out, despite the joining of local and nationally mobilized forces. In fact, very few people came from outside Cleveland, except the national leadership of the organization. Their strength at the height of their mobilization, outside the clinics, is estimated at approximately 50-75 activists. In Wichita thousands of antis blockaded clinics; in Cincinnati in 1991 approximately 400 showed up. In Cleveland, they clearly did not have the numbers to try to repeat the actions they had taken in the early 90s. This is particularly true given the presence of an equal number of pro-choice activists present, including a portion who had declared their intention to defend the clinics if necessary.

The real question, then, is whether Operation Save America will attempt to shut down access to reproductive services in the future, modeled on their organizing on the early 90s. So we will find out. In July, Operation Save America plans to return to Wichita. We have reason to believe that the organization will attempt full scale blockades of clinics. Flip Benham, head of Operation Save America, revealed to a member of Anti-Racist Action Columbus going by the name of Muffin, that they intend a full-scale mobilization in Wichita, pulling all of their national supporters to that city. As Benham put it, "We're going to crush you in Wichita." According to their website, the organization intends to "finish the work God started in 1991." This is a thinly veiled threat against access to reproductive rights.

It appears even more probable that militant anti-choice street protest will occur given the current political climate in the United States. Militant anti-choice activity, such as that characteristic of Operation Rescue, has been less prevalent in recent years. With the enforcement of the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) Laws under the Clinton Administration, Operation Rescue was unable to pursue blockade actions without significant legal repercussions. However, as George W. Bush takes office, the anti-choice movement is well aware that the sun has again risen on their side, as the state shifts its allegiances. US President George W. Bush is anti-choice; Attorney General John Ashcroft is anti-choice. This means the return of Operation Rescue, in its new form, Operation Save America. Non-enforcement of federal FACE laws by the Attorney General of the United States means consequence-free attack on clinics and women across the country by anti-choice protesters. This is a window of opportunity they are sure to take advantage of.

The legal protection for a woman's access to a full range of reproductive health options is hanging on by a thread. The Supreme Court is closely divided, barely supporting legal protections for access to abortion services under limited circumstances. The possibility of government recognition of a woman's inalienable right to abortion on demand is gone. While George W. Bush will eventually have the opportunity to tip the scales in favor of overturning the 1973 Supreme Court decision which provided limited government recognition of a woman's right to choose (*Roe v. Wade*), it will take time for this to happen. In the interim, however, anti-choice street activists are certain to seize the moment to effectively take away a woman's right to choose by physically stopping her from accessing services, targeting providers for violence, and creating a climate of fear and shame around the issue. Already, we can see this happening in Central Ohio, as more militant, derisive, and potentially violent activists have begun to picket Columbus clinics. Wichita could be the first major, nationwide mobilization in the coming era of anti-choice street actions.

>On Saturday, February 10th, anti-racists from around Illinois joined forces to give a WCOTC public meeting in Bloomington, Illinois, the response it deserved. Approximately 40 anti-racists converged on the library right before the public meeting was to begin, including members of Chicago Anti-Racist Action, Aurora ARA, and students and activists from around Central Illinois. Filing into the public meeting, these activists went directly to the front of the meeting room to physically and ideologically challenge Hale and his supporters. Hale was quickly forced into retreat, his back literally against the wall, surrounded by a small phalanx of bodyguards. The "master race" could only posture and bumble as Hale was condemned as a traitor to the working class and the anti-racists declared that the meeting was now an anti-racist forum. A box of racist literature was scattered and destroyed, the remains showered over the huddled fascists. Once they actually got his microphone plugged in and a line of Bloomington police stepped in to protect the fascists, Hale's attempts to speak were drowned out with catcalls, drums and chants. For two hours the anti-racists effectively ran the meeting, shredding the few arguments Hale was able to articulate and thoroughly disrupting the WCOTC's attempts to recruit. Many of the WCOTC's supporters left early, and the remainder were escorted into the parking lot by police, where they attempted to hide their license plates from the anti-racists as they piled into cars and hastily fled.

>The action was clearly a success, and a political defeat for the fascists. Though Hale will undoubtedly try to salvage a "victory" from the situation by claiming that the WCOTC acted with restraint and dignity in the face of confrontation, the reality is that the WCOTC's true nature and agenda was exposed, and their credibility challenged and fractured. This action was the first step towards building a strong base of local resistance in the Central Illinois area, to counter the WCOTC wherever it rears its hateful head.

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>For many months now, the white-supremacist World Church of the Creator (WCOTC), based out of East Peoria, Illinois, has been holding "public meetings" in various towns around North-Central Illinois. The WCOTC is the fastest growing fascist organization in the Midwest, made infamous by the attempts of its leader, Matt Hale to obtain a law degree and by the 1999 shooting spree conducted by WCOTC-member Benjamin Smith, who killed 2 and wounded 9.

>These meetings are usually held in public libraries, strategically chosen so that opposing anti-racists must risk angering local residents and >library-goers if they attempt to be disruptive. During these meetings, Matt Hale typically drones on for an hour on a topic relevant to the racist agenda, flanked on either side by WCOTC flag-toting "bodyguards." These meetings are not simply an attempt to gather new recruits to the white supremacist movement--though they do bolster the establishment of new WCOTC chapters in these communities. They are also an attempt to gain legitimacy, >to portray the WCOTC as a "respectful" and "upstanding" group interested in supporting "white communities." WCOTC members are instructed to be on their best behavior, to not instigate conflicts, and to present a dignified image >to the media. The WCOTC's standard banter of "Rahowa" (Racial Holy War), >ethnic slurs and calls for "white revolution" are carefully avoided. The meetings are videotaped and aired on WCOTC-sponsored public cable access programs around the country, and Hale usually takes advantage of the >controversy surrounding these meetings to gain more media airtime and >articles (and interview fees) to promote their racist ideology.

>These public meetings are not significantly different from a Ku Klux Klan rally on the steps of a county courthouse, yet so far they have been >accepted with quiet reluctance and little protest. Fascists should not be >allowed the public space to organize, as they grow in numbers when they are >not met with resistance. Nor should we concede them a platform to spout >their filth, as their ideology is a threat to the freedom and very lives of >many of us.

This poses the dilemma of how to deal with these mobilizations when they threaten access to abortion services. Within the pro-choice movement, there have been disagreements on this issue. Some organizations advocate a hard-line of not confronting the anti- or defending the clinics, preferring instead to allow the clinics to be shut down for the period of the mobilization, waiting to provide services to women after out-of-town activists have gone home. This line of thought allows what essentially amounts to a fascistic street force to take away a community's right to reproductive services. Whether temporary or not, this is unacceptable. Women's right to control their bodies is a human right which deserves to be defended.

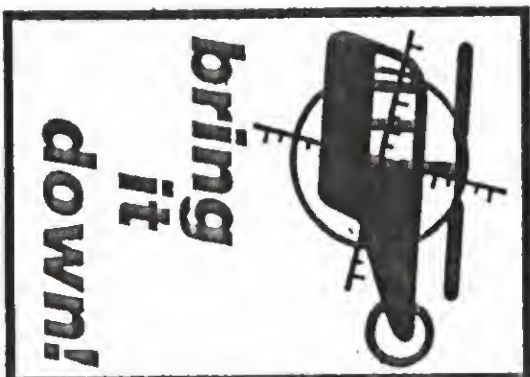
Others will abide by the wishes of the clinic owners or directors themselves, most of whom also advocate non-confrontation. Communication and coalition with clinic operators and staff people is essential, especially during more long term scenarios, as clinic workers are often targeted for violence at their homes. However, it is a mistake to leave all decisions to clinic owners and directors simply because capitalist ideologies and institutions have granted them the right to claim ownership over what is essentially a community service. We are all allies in this struggle; but the right to control our reproductive rights is an essential human right over which the community must take ownership.

We cannot expect to rely on clinic owners and police to protect this right; we must be prepared to defend it ourselves when necessary. While it is important for patient comfort to avoid confrontation in front of a clinic if possible, it is also important to recognize that patient comfort means nothing when no services are being provided. Access is primary, and we must be willing to defend it if we expect to maintain any of our rights when under attack.

We must begin to understand anti-choice forces as fascist. When ARA and other anti-fascist militants deal with the Klan or Nazis we have no problem "going where they go to shut them down." We must treat the anti-choicers the same way. They are just as violent and evil as neo-nazis. We are not being loose with the term fascist. Fascism is more than reactionary, totalitarian politics. Fascism is reactionary, totalitarian, MASS politics that openly uses terror on the streets to achieve its ends, suppress enemies, and support legal strategies. The anti-choice movement definitely fits this definition.

We can never let fascists have control of the streets. It was not the mass blockades of clinics in the 80s and early 90s that led to the FACE law. By the time the FACE law was enacted we had already taken back the streets and clinic blockaders faced increasingly militant opposition from radical pro-choice forces determined to win the struggle on the ground, not in the courts. In a sense FACE was designed to take the power back from us. By forcing the abortion debate back into the hands of politicians and policy makers and away from the streets, the government has moved the struggle to where the anti-choicers are the strongest.

Faced with a new round of attacks, the movement for reproductive freedom needs to respond in the streets. When we militantly defeat anti-choice forces on the ground, policy makers will notice. They will see that we are willing to defend our rights with our bodies and will think twice about going further in their legal attacks. We can no longer be content to whine, march, lobby, and beg our "leaders" to retain some scrap of rights. We must defend the rights we already have on the streets and articulate a new vision of expanded rights that we intend to seize. We'll be seeing the antis in Wichita this summer. Hopefully, we'll see you there too.



RIOTS & REVOLUTION IN QUEBEC CITY

Once again, mass protests against economic globalization have been answered with brutality from the police and indifference from mainstream media. This time it was the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, where corporate leaders and their political lackeys met to work out the final details of the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement. This basically extends NAFTA to rest of the Western Hemisphere. Thousands of protesters of different political backgrounds including greens, communists and anarchists came out to disrupt this meeting as much as possible. The result was a variety of actions from peaceful protest to street fighting with the cops.

SUBCOMANDANTE MARCOS, the rebels' leader, said the bill, modified by the Senate and passed by both houses of Congress last week, weakened clauses guaranteeing autonomy and self-determination contained in accords reached in 1996 by Zapatistas and members of a government peace commission. "With this reform, federal legislators and the Fox government close the door to dialogue and peace," Marcos said in a communique issued from the rebel's jungle base in the southern state of Chiapas. "It sabotages the incipient process of reconciliation between the government and the Zapatista National Liberation Army."

Marcos criticized President Vicente Fox for praising the bill. "In this way, Fox demonstrates that he only pretended to make the initial agreement his, while he negotiated with hard-line sectors of Congress a reform that doesn't recognize the rights of the indigenous communities." The Zapatistas want regional autonomy for Indian areas on issues like native languages and traditional government and law based on councils of elders or village assemblies. In Congress' version of the bill, autonomy would be more locally based, and state legislatures would have to enact those customs into law.

The original version also established Indians' communal rights to land and natural resources. Congress inserted language protecting private land holdings in Indian areas and said Indians would have preference, but not sole rights, to natural resources in their territories.

REBELS' SIGNATURE CAUSE

The Zapatistas launched a short-lived revolution in the name of Indian rights or Dec. 1, 1994. More than 140 people died in 12 days of fighting. While the rebels have not been a major military threat since, they have mounted a successful campaign to demand that Mexico rethink its treatment of its 10 million Indians.

Passage of the bill was one of the three conditions the Zapatistas established to reopen peace talks. Submitting the bill to Congress was Fox's first official act after taking office in December. The Senate unanimously passed a modified version Wednesday. The lower house of Congress overwhelmingly

approved it Saturday. Pablo Salazar, the Chiapas governor elected by a coalition of political parties, including Fox's National Action Party and the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, also rejected the bill Monday, saying it represented a "triumph for conservatism" in Mexico.

The transformation of the Zapatistas from a tiny, ill-armed, barely trained guerrilla force to an international cultural movement was emphasized by the remarkable mixture of supporters filling the streets. They ranged from the capital's smartly turned-out bourgeoisie to body-pierced and pink-haired punks carrying placards proclaiming the Zapatistas as their inspiration, to dungareed Italian anti-globalisers and three generations of Mexican families waving Zapatista National Liberation Army flags.

Even hours before the march was due to arrive, as bands played and Aztec dancers performed, the Zocalo was already crowded and alive with excitement and anticipation. More than one little boy will have the chance in years to come to ponder photos of himself perched on his father's shoulders wearing a balaclava and with a toy pipe in his mouth.

President Fox was not in the Zocalo. But he was generous in his welcome, which he hopes will bring him a major political gain with a peace accord. "Welcome Subcomandante Marcos, welcome Zapatistas, welcome to the political arena," was the President's message. Not that Mr Marcos is yet ready to take off his mask and his guerrilla uniform.

"What he (President Fox) has to understand, and what everyone else has to understand, is that we are not a political force as such, we are an armed group doing politics," said "El Sub". He warned that if the peace talks failed and the Zapatistas' demands for constitutional autonomy and equality for indigenous people were not met, other more militaristic groups would be less amenable to peaceful solutions.

Recently, as of April 30, Mexico's Zapatista rebels broke off all contacts with the government Monday and called upon supporters to protest against an Indian rights bill their leader said failed to meet rebels' demands.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico, April 30 - Mexico's Zapatista rebels broke off all contacts with the government Monday and called upon supporters to protest against an Indian rights bill their leader said failed to meet rebels' demands.

First off, the Canadian cops decided to erect a concrete and chain link fence around most of downtown QC. No was permitted entry without a residence card so the objective, for the anarchist black bloc and assorted rowdies, was to tear this fence down and create a general security risk. Saturday March 2, was the big day for direct action, by the time the labor rights march got close to the perimeter the fight was already on. The day consisted of protesters charging at the cops, throwing rocks and pulling back when the tear gas started flying. The perimeter was broken in several places throughout the day. That evening the fighting intensified as cops were pelted with sticks, bottles, rocks and the occasional Molotov cocktail. The swine fought back with water cannons, plastic bullets, smoke bombs and tear gas. Some deserving targets such as Shell, McDonalds and the Canadian National Bank were hit with graffiti and broken windows. The weekend's actions succeeded in enraging the cops and frightening some of the attendees at the Summit.

One issue that comes up consistently in the left and especially in QC is the debate over property destruction and other militant actions. Many people argue that it perpetuates violence but destroying corporate property can be a useful tool. The purpose is to strike back at the corporations and institutions that oppress millions of people all over the world. A good example of this is McDonalds, a multinational ecological disaster. Besides the gross environmental damage and animal abuse perpetrated by McDonalds, there is the effect the corporation has on average people. They peddle junk food at every major intersection in the United States and in other cities around the world. People work and eat at their stores everyday, given a low wage and fed garbage. From their disregard for their environment to their repulsive food, McDonalds and other corporations like them are an assault on the general public. This is why some protesters feel that property destruction is not only justified but deserved.

Another good reason to feel angry and militant was the police brutality that occurred over the weekend. There were 6,000 active cops on the street plus 6,000 more reserves. They protected their fence clad in flame retardant suits, helmets, gas masks and body armor. They used military grade tear gas, water cannons and plastic bullets. There were several hundred arrests and two deaths. One was an older woman who suffocated from the copious amounts of gas in the air, the other was a man who was shot in the back of the head with a plastic bullet. Aside from the cops missing half the city, there were roving vans full of cops snatching people off the streets. Timidation tactics included the snatch squads, helicopter surveillance and raids on the media locations in Seattle and QC. The plastic bullets and the ridiculous amount of gas used gives us a clear picture of how the state and the elite feel about these protests and the people in general. This is why the author feels no sympathy for the cops that went to the hospital during these actions.

Overall, the protests went well. There were not many arrests compared to the number of protesters and a good deal of havoc was created. Despite a disappointing lack of unity surrounding the property destruction issue, different groups got their message across in different ways. This movement is growing and developing a strong political base. As we grow the pigs will get more violent and reactionary. This fall, the IMF will be meeting again in DC. This meeting obviously needs to be smashed so go in droves but go prepared to face American cops at their very worst.

I remember your smile

Bright as the sun's explosion
Wide as the arms of Yemaya
Deep as a gushing well of kindness
I remember your smile

Slow like the dawn of recognition
Quick like the wit of observation
Clear as the logic of common sense
I remember your smile

Frank as a simple declaration
Bold like the taste of naked love
Wasn't no grinning or smirking or sneering
I remember your smile

Even when you were young
You had an old smile
 deep wrinkles spread across your brow like
 worn paths
Crossing familiar ground
Laugh lines descending from eyes made old
By deadly images
Laughter holding back the tears
I remember your smile

Your smile is like an umbilical cord
Pulling me back, pulling us back
to a lost continent
 of brown velvet faces with white incandescent teeth
 radiating home, radiating peace, radiating love

I remember your smile
We remember your smile
We call on your smile
We call on your smile
To give us light

They been trying to take your smile
Wipe it off your face
Like they be wiping us off this earth
But you smiled that smile in cages,
Institutionalized outrages
Twenty year hits
Like contemptuous spit
And in spite of a bitter taste
in your mouth
Your smile shine strong

All of us smile lovers
Need to set you free
We need to free your smile
That x-ray smile
Beaming rays of freedom
Unchain that smile
Unchain that smile
Set it free

We love your smile
We need your smile
Your smile is sweet enough
To melt hard hearts
Into love syrup
Sweet and sticky
as the nectar of freedom

Zapatistas cheered into Mexico City



Tuesday, March 13th, 2001, The unimaginable happened. The Zapatistas, led by their masked commandantes and their enigmatic leader Subcomandante Marcos, finally entered the capital of the nation with which they have been at war for seven years.

While the images of Fidel Castro and his guerrillas entering Havana in 1959 and the victorious Nicaraguan Sandinistas entering Managua in 1979 may be fixed in the memory, this entrance, on Sunday, was remarkable in that these rebels came not only unarmed but with a welcome from the president of the country that made them outlaws.

The Mexican press was in no doubt as to the significance of the day. "Marcos takes the capital!" said one newspaper. "They're taking the plaza!" said another. La Prensa summed up with the word "unimaginable".

At dawn, the caravan of Zapatistas and supporters from around the world was already stirring and breakfasting on tamales in a sports complex on the outskirts of Mexico City where they had been billeted for the last night of their 16-day pilgrimage from Chiapas.

They had come in pursuit of constitutional rights for the country's 10 million indigenous people, around 10 per cent of the population, and Sunday was the culmination of a trip that had taken them through 12 states. As the 3360-kilometre trek ended, they were joined by international public figures - human rights ambassador Danielle Mitterand, Portuguese Nobel prizewinning author Jose Saramago, and the French anti-multinational activist Jose Bove.

The Zocalo, the capital's huge city square, awaited them, but the only sights trained from the rooftops and behind the belfries were those of the swarms of photographers and camera crews from around the world. It was in 1914 that Emiliano Zapata, the man who gave his name to the movement, rode in revolutionary triumph into the same Zocalo, flanked as it is by the 16th century cathedral and the national palace.

On Sunday the street vendors were busy selling Zapatista masks, T-shirts, mugs, jugs, recorded music, Marcos scarves, and action dolls complete with pipe and balaclava, mixed with images of Che Guevara.

"The image of Marcos is a response to romantic and idealistic expectations. He is the white man in the midst of indigenous people, close to the idea of a kind of Robin Hood," said Mr Marcos himself on the eve of the Zapatistas' entrance.

Acknowledging the extraordinary cult that has surrounded him since the 1994 uprising, and explaining the tactics behind the march, he said: "We did not have another way out. The only way to make ourselves strong was to come out (of the jungle) to march."

Watching the Zapatistas, Santos Orozco, 67, a canal boatman, said: "They are the defenders of the poor, not just the indigenous." The Zapatistas marched on the capital, disdaining an invitation from President Vicente Fox to meet in the presidential palace. Mr Marcos accused Mr Fox of trivialising the indigenous cause. "He wants to turn a serious movement into a prime-time event," he said. "It would be a hollow media event."

The tuition hike at The Ohio State University

Ohio State University President Brit Kirwan is determined to make OSU an elite institution. Or perhaps his intentions become more clear when we say "elitist institution." Though he claims otherwise, the policies being enacted under Kirwan's leadership speak volumes about his intentions. Kirwan's policies work to further the gentrification project begun by former OSU president Gordon Gee, as embodied in the Campus Partners community development corporation. While Gee started the move to push the unwanted out of the neighborhoods surrounding the University, Kirwan is doing his best to force them out of the University itself with his new "Academic Plan."

This plan calls for a 9% increase in tuition each year for the next five years, resulting in a 67% increase in tuition over today's prices. Many working class and poor students already have difficulty funding their education (and actually getting something from it when they have to work 40+ hours a week to finance it). Lots of folks have to take out big loans, essentially mortgaging their future for an education that should be provided free, as an absolute right. Even students who come from wealthy or middle class backgrounds sometimes do not get help from their parents, though the government doesn't want to allow them to not claim their parents on their financial aid forms. This is particularly a problem for queer students, who experience higher incidence of being financially (and emotionally) cut off from their families. This tuition hike will also go a long way to keep single parents and teenage parents out of schools, because of the way economic factors interact with single and young parenthood, leaving many of these students poorer than other groups. The same is true of people of color. Because of the economic expression of racism and the continued segregation that is executed in this country, people of color more often experience poverty.

While it is obvious that Kirwan's proposed tuition hike will do enough to make OSU a richer, whiter, straighter, more male institution, it seems that he is not willing to stop there. Instead, the plan additionally calls for the introduction of selective admissions. Over and over it has been shown that the measures used in selective admissions processes embody racial, class, and gender biases, effectively keeping people of color, working class and poor people, and women out of school.

What is perhaps most audacious about all this is the fact that while doing it, Kirwan claims to maintain and act on a commitment to "diversity." "Diversity" is, in fact, one of the stated goals of the Academic Plan, yet no measures have been introduced to counteract the obviously detrimental effects this policy would have. Kirwan's commitment to diversity is actually a commitment to tokenism, in order to prop up his ultimate elitism. He all but admitted this in a public meeting on the Academic Plan. When asked about the effects these policies would have on diversity, Kirwan suggested that marginal students should attend community colleges or access the university through regional campuses. In other words, if you don't fit the profile for the student of the elite Ohio State University, you should be relegated to an educational ghetto. Judging from this proposed policy, his continued support of Campus Partners, and his handling of the CWA strike in the Spring of 2000, Kirwan's idea of diversity is including working class people and people of color in the University community only as underpaid workers, not as students.

A younger contingent of protesters are now coming from Holy Family. Shane Pezzutti, a 24-year-old college student who has had run-ins with the law in the past, has been the main organizer from Holy Family. Pezzutti, the oldest of eight children, has brought family members and other friends, such as 23-year-old Martina Snell, who plays french horn in the Columbus Symphony, John Lisenfeld, who is studying engineering in college, and a 19-year-old Catholic convert named Casey to the clinic to protest. Although Pezzutti is committed to his faith, he comes across as someone searching for an outlet, and when the Army of God came calling to Holy Family, he was all ears.

In March, Jim Smith and Howard Grimmett came to Holy Family Church to see if the church would be committed to acts of violence. They came away with the notion that the church members they spoke with were on the fence with the issue, but they saw potential in Pezzutti. Just days earlier, Pezzutti asked Rev. Lutz about the idea of turning to more aggressive means such as violence. Although Lutz has participated in clinic blockades with Operation Rescue, and has been arrested in the past, he advised against it. Nevertheless, Pezzutti's aggressiveness has increased during the time the Spingola crew has been out. Where once he had staged silent protests outside the clinics, within a matter of weeks he was yelling at the clinic workers just like Spingola's group, calling for the arrest of the doctor as she entered the building. Indeed he was very eager at Smith and Grimmett's suggestion to take down license plates.

The clinic takes these threats seriously, especially after finding out who these people were. Most of the people that revolve around Spingola have had troubles with the law in the past, and when the threats came with threatening actions, clinic workers felt the line was crossed. Jim Smith's military truck and the physical confrontations were bad enough, but the most alarming moment was when Smith, in a regular vehicle this time, with Chris DiCenzo, another from Spingola's group, following behind him, followed a clinic escort as she drove from the clinic. The police who were assigned to special duty immediately went after the trio of cars, but no one was stopped, no arrests were made, and the most contact made by police with protesters, was a warning that if it happens again some folks will get arrested.

This however, brings up the question as to how eager the Columbus police are in dealing with the more volatile protesters. Not one incident, from the communication of threats, even immediately after being warned, to the physical confrontations, to the tailing of workers from the clinic, has resulted in any action being taken by local law enforcement. Smith's military truck, for example was being driven illegally. There were no plates on the truck, which since it was decommissioned and therefore not considered a military-owned vehicle could not be driven. Smith had plates however, but they were expired. The first inquiry from officers on the scene was not about the plates, but how to get a vehicle for themselves. That officer even stated at that point that he was on the side of the demonstrators. The one officer who did want to arrest the demonstrators when the stepped out of line was removed from this post after complaints from one of the demonstrators. That made the clinic workers even more alarmed, and it was time to up the ante.

The ante was already being upped in the meantime. Anti-Racist Action began videotaping the protests early March, and were able to compile not only pictures of the protesters but through further work, the names, addresses, phone numbers, and other information on them. Their videotaping sessions have not gone unnoticed, either. The anti-choicers have also began videotaping and taking pictures of them. Shane Pezzutti and John Lisenfeld has attempted to engage some of them in debate. When talking to them, Pezzutti elects to refer to himself as "Servant", not realizing that they already know who he is.

The surveillance has not been without it's effect. There has been a marked decline in the more threatening gestures outside the clinic, as if the anti-choicers are learning to guard their words and deeds lest they find themselves implicated in something that happens. Dr. Johnson once said as much when he noted that if anything happened at Capital Care the first people they will question will be them. Of course that could only mean that they are circling their wagons.

New York for assisting James Charles Kopp while he was on the run in Europe from authorities in the U.S. charging him with the murder of abortion doctor Bernard Slepian. Rev. Bray, who once dated Kathie Lee Gifford, has his stripes as well. He served a four year stint in prison in the 1980s on two counts of conspiracy and one count of possessing an unregistered explosive device. Along with Horsley for his website, he was also being sued for putting abortion doctors on wanted posters, complete with their address and phone numbers, although a court recently ruled in their favor.

Among the hundred or so attendees to this banquet was Chuck Spignola, a street preacher living 45 minutes from Columbus in Newark, Ohio. It is he and his disciples who are making the Army of God presence at Capital Care. Spignola, 45, has a rather sorted history, coming here from California after serving a stint in prison for theft and claiming to have found God in 1979. He gained a bit of notoriety in 1999 when during the Gay Pride festivities that summer in Columbus, he climbed up the flagpole outside the Statehouse, tore down the gay pride rainbow flag the city flew for the occasion, and burned it, with a number of his cohorts cheering on. This put him in a national spotlight among anti-gay activists, and made him a celebrity. This also gave him a platform for his warped view of the Bible. To Spignola, God has decreed that those defying his law shall be put to death. That has meant homosexuals, abortion supporters, Episcopalians, etc. According to some sources, he was the most dynamic speaker at the White Rose Banquet, bringing with him not just his disdain of a woman's right to choose, but his vehement hatred of homosexuals. "My wife used to say 'Honey, do you believe all homosexuals should be put to death?'" he told the crowd. "I said 'No, dear, you get about a half a dozen of the activists, you kill them and the rest of them will go back in the closet.'"

Spignola's group outside Capital Care includes a handful of cohorts. His son, 16-year David, is the aforementioned videographer, whose job has been to tape not only the faces of the workers but their cars and license plates as well. They have been able to get some personal information about the workers that way, but not much, and nothing questionable has been reported that could have been connected to that kind of information. Tom Meyer, who lives only six doors away from Spignola, brings his daughter to the clinic, and she was there the day he was detained for coming on the property. Every Wednesday, they hold Bible study/dinner with the others who come out to the clinic with them, Chris DiCenzo of Columbus, Howard Grimmer and Jim Smith, both of Westerville, and Dr. Patrick Johnston, a physician from Portsmouth currently living in Zanesville and looking for a place in Columbus. During one of those meetings Spignola reiterated his statement at the White Rose Banquet about killing the most radical homosexuals, defending it with Leviticus 20:13.

Spignola's group has been a bit of an influence for a second group of anti-choice protestors who come to Capital Care from the Holy Family Church, a prominent Catholic church in Columbus whose pastor, Rev. Kevin Lutz was tapped by Rep. Deborah Pryce to represent the Central Ohio area in Washington D.C. and speak with President Bush during an April 25 conference on faith-based initiatives. Holy Family Church works on the premise of returning the Catholic Church to principles they feel it has abandoned of the past thirty years, making it more liberal. One of Holy Family's flock is John Tuttle, who has been outside the clinic for at least three years and until the Army of God started to appear their most threatening protester. According to the clinic workers, he is infamous for making threats to them, and most recently threatened to rip the head off one worker, who may take the issue further. Tuttle is a post office worker who was fired from his job when he wore a Postal Service baseball cap during a protest. He fought and won in court to get his job back with the help of a right-wing legal organization called the Rutherford Institute, and is out there along with the rest of his fellow churchgoers.

Some students have been working to fight the increased tuition hike, in a limited manner. The Student Tuition Alliance (STA) formed primarily by the College Democrats, though including some people from the Green Party, Anti-Racist Action Columbus, and other organizations, has been the organizational force behind the fight against the tuition hike. However, the campaign was handled in too limited a way.

Demands focused only on not increasing tuition *so much*. The state mandates that public universities can only raise tuition 6% each year, which is referred to as the tuition cap. In order to raise tuition 9%, the legislature had to grant the university an exemption to the tuition cap. The primary focus of STA was to stop the tuition cap exemption. While many of the issues discussed here were mentioned in some way in the official platform of the group, stopping the exemption was the only goal set or demand made by the group.

The way in which the project was pursued was also too limited to fight a battle that affects so many people. The Academic Plan would not only hurt students currently attending the university, but all future students (in fact, it would hurt these potential students more). This plan affects the families of these students. This plan affects all people interested in obtaining a college education in the state of Ohio, as Ohio State is in many ways the flagship university of the state, causing other public universities to follow its lead. In fact, when asked whether they also would pursue an exemption to the tuition cap if OSU was successful in obtaining one, only the president of Kent State University said no. Allowing this project to move forward would mean a higher cost lower accessibility education for all the people of the state of Ohio, no matter which public university they may attend. This is a battle for the entire community to fight, not just the current students of the Ohio State University. Unfortunately, efforts to draw connections between what is happening at OSU and the needs and rights of the community to higher education were insufficient and poorly executed.

Lastly, the strategy itself was too limited, focusing on the state legislature through lobbying. In a state controlled by Republicans, in which many Democrats are themselves quite conservative, attempts to lobby the legislature in the name of justice are generally futile. So much energy is directed to the official channels and workings of the government where we only spin our wheels, never really moving forward. This has been the case as long as social justice movements have fought government policies and behavior. These channels are not for the people. They are for the elite, who have been trained in how to navigate them and have the social capital (ie wealth, skin color, connections, gender, etc.) to convince government officials they are worth listening to. If we want to win something as a community, for the community, then we need to fight it as a community. We need to make a ruckus in the street. That is how we convince lawmakers that they can't afford to screw us over again.

It seems that it's too late, this time, to fight the tuition cap exemption; the state legislators will vote on it soon (may have already by the time this is being read). The lines of dissent have been drawn too narrowly, and there is not enough time to widen them. What we can do is learn from our mistakes, and more forcefully pursue and exclusively direct our limited energies to building community networks to protest and resist the elitism encroaching in the university community.

THE KILLING PLACE

Hitler's Holocaust



America's Holocaust



Sign holders
Above: Chris DICEH2O

Right: Tom Meyer
936 Village Dr.
Newark, OH
Cell # 740-814-2013
Pager # 740-328-3803
Home # 740-344-3193

CLINIC DEFENSE

A group of anti-choicers are getting their asses kicked, but they don't know it...yet.

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

Capital Care is an abortion clinic in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio, and it is used to seeing anti-choice protestors outside its parking lot. Like other clinics across the country, they take the protests in stride, and do not allow them to hamper them providing abortions to women who make the choice to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. There may be heated arguments, but each side respects the rights afforded each other. This, however has started to be tested recently.

Over the past two months a new crop of demonstrators have come to the clinic, and it has not been without incident. All in the name of God, there has been threats, insults, shoving matches, and in one case an escort was followed as she left the clinic. These new protesters are connected to the Army of God, the most violent faction of anti-choicers in the country. They believe violence in the defense of what they interpret as God's law is justifiable, particularly the shooting deaths of abortion doctors and the bombing of clinics. As the situation escalates, many feel that it is only a matter of time before something tragic happens, but something is being done about it before it does.

In early March, Anti-Racist Action, along with the anti-fascist One People's Project started to watch this group and the local anti-choice figures, and have been able to determine who they were and how much of a threat they were to not only Capital Care, but to other clinics in the area. Although not all of the protesters openly advocate violence, some are being influenced by those that do. That is what concerns locals.

The recent events outside the clinic began not long after a massive demonstration by Operation Rescue two hours away in Cleveland on Inauguration Day. This was followed a few weeks later by a firebomb attack at another Columbus clinic. The firebombing caused no injuries, left minimal damage and was not even reported in the local media, although the Feminist Majority released an alert to clinics all over the country on the incident. Within a course of a week the demonstrations outside Capital Care became intensified.

The mainstays at Capital Care have been until now two well-known anti-choice activists in Columbus, Fran Kempf and Don Schneider. With them, their way of operating had been attempting to counsel patients as they enter the clinic. Often there would be heated debates with Kempf, Schneider and the clinic workers, but no one felt that the two were planning something nefarious.

These new protests were different. There were threats to kill the abortion workers this time. A military-styled truck started making an appearance. One demonstrator videotapes those entering the clinic, tried to videotape inside through an open window, and there was one altercation in which he was spat at by a client supporter. In another incident, another demonstrator charged a patient hit him with his SUV as they were pulling into the parking lot. A shoving match ensued and the demonstrator, Tom Meyer was detained-not arrested--by police after repeated warnings to stay off clinic property. It became evident very quickly that there was a real problem.

HBO recently aired a documentary on the Army of God and law enforcement have been keeping a close eye on the activities of them as well. On January 21, 2001, the group's main staple Rev. Michael Bray of the Reformation Lutheran Church in Bowie, Md. held something called the White Rose Banquet. This was pretty much a convention for the Army of God, and among the attendees were some of the most notorious anti-choicers. There was Rev. Don Spitz of Pro-Life Virginia, Neil Horsley, author of the Nuremberg Files website that lists the names of doctors and abortion clinic workers and supporters, crossing them out whenever they are killed, and Dennis Malvasi, fresh from a six-year stint in prison for the bombing of four New York clinics in the 1980s. Two months from this banquet he, along with his wife were arrested in